

**Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, September 10, 1840, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, September 10, 1840.

My Dear General: I have owed you a letter for some weeks, but have been engaged in performing much less agreeable duties in the way of correspondence, to such an extent as to deny me the pleasure of writing to you. As, however, you have had a sharp correspondence with your old friend Clay, I suspect you have not missed my epistle much. It is remarkable that the President, when he saw Clay's Journey to Nashville announced, predicted precisely what has happened. He told me that Clay would affect great courtesy and respect towards you, but that his malignity would seek some indirect avenue to reach your feelings; that he would endeavor to mask his attack so as to preclude you from repelling it, that he would fail in it and that you would certainly be down upon him before he left Nashville. I never enjoyed any thing more than to see the prediction verified in all its parts. As Clay says he was most wonderfully "surprized." So was not the Magician. I have held up your last excellent letter, with a view to connect it with a defence Gilpin is preparing of Livingstons reputation. But he is so long getting his documents that I give the letter without his narration.

I have a letter to-day from Vermont stating that the Abolition missionaries who have been busy in the election in that state applied the funds which they had collected for the Emancipation of the Negroes, freely in promoting the election of Harrisons friends. Slated all the rest. A gentleman of high respectability in Pennsylvania writes to Mr. Miller (the Comptroller) that he has good reason to believe that abolition funds collected in England

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are now freely employed in promoting Harrisons success in the Keystone State! I am not surprized at the result in Vermont. They have increased their majority at least 7000 by the union of all the factions cemented by abolition and British funds. But that North Carolina should join those making a crusade against her vital interests in every respect and all her principles from the revolution to this time, amazes me.

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Great Britain has adopted the measure of emancipation. Throughout all her possessions she has allied France in her scheme of making it universal. They are both interested in putting down the competition of Slave labor. [in] the United States, which from its superior management among us, has outstripped its products in all their colonial dependencies. To break it down in the United States and give their cotton and sugar raising colonies an opening to contend with our southern States in the markets of the world it is necessary to destroy their capital and the command of the species of labor, which has given them preeminence. This is the true motive of their Negroe philanthropy. Having succeeded in effecting emancipation elsewhere, England now turns the whole force of the world, which she calls moral force, to accomplish her object in the South. She sends her missionaries and her money to our shores and her old Federal allies are now found in strict alliance with the abolition proselytes whom she has so successfully encouraged in the North.

Is it not astounding that any Southern state heretofore republican—or indeed whether federal or republican—should give the slightest countenance to this new northern liason with England! Doubtless the Federalists and Harrison make secret pledges to the South that they will abandon the abolition cause which they now court for support. But does not the whole South know that the Federal affinities have always been with England and is it probable they will forego them at the moment when they obtain victory, through this foreign power and the factions immoderately influenced by her? And will Federalism cordially unite itself to southern principles and interests, which it has always opposed as contradistinguished from northern policy and principles in all respects, when it shall

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have established its power forever on the basis of a northern majority backed by British influence in every shape? And is it for such a hope that the South will abandon her well tried friends of the Northern Democracy, which has made common cause with her from the days of Jefferson up—nay, from the establishment of the Govt., for it was by the Northern Democracy that the South succeeded in its struggle against doctrines of Hamilton in the convention and crushed them in the election of Mr. Jefferson and Adams. But I weary you with my lamentations over the tergiversation of North Carolina.

I think we shall succeed without North Carolina. Our friends write confidently of Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Virga. I have faith in Tennessee, too, but I am sure it cannot be carried unless there is a system, which will enable our active friends to know in every neighborhood how each man will vote and unless certain measures are taken to see that every Republican does vote and that no fraud is committed on the ballot-box. There is the danger with you, and every where, our enemy has determined to succeed per fas aut nefas